

Kentucky Division of Forestry's Michael Froelich Named Tree Farm Inspector of the Year

Michael Froelich was recently honored as the 2009 Kentucky Tree Farm Inspector of the Year at the Kentucky Forest Industries Association (KFIA) 45th Annual Meeting in Bowling Green, KY. Froelich is a service forester for the Kentucky Division of Forestry and has helped advance forest management through his work with private landowners and the Kentucky Tree Farm Program since 2007.

Froelich, who works in the Southeastern District, completed five new tree farm inspections and recertified two tree farms last year earning him recognition from the Kentucky Tree Farm Committee. Froelich conducted the inspections to ensure that sustainable forestry practices were being implemented by the landowners and to determine certification status for each farm. In order to become a certified Tree Farm and maintain certification, landowners must implement a management plan based on strict environmental standards and pass an initial inspection and subsequent inspections every five years.

Kentucky has over 800 certified tree farms owned by private landowners who manage their forests for a wide range of environmental, economic and social benefits. Tree Farmers share a unique commitment to protect wildlife habitat and watersheds soil, provide recreation for their communities while producing wood for America and these individuals hold the key to sustaining our forests.

The Kentucky Tree Farm Committee is sponsored by the Kentucky Forest Industries Association, a statewide association promoting the forest products industry of Kentucky since 1965, and the Kentucky Division of Forestry and is part of the American Tree Farm System promoting sound forest management through sustainable forestry. For more information about the program or how you can become a certified Tree Farmer, contact Bob Bauer at 502-695-3979 or Pam Snyder at 1-502-564-4496. More information is also available online at <http://www.kytreefarm.org/> or <http://www.forestry.ky.gov/programs/stewardship/American+Tree+Farm+System.htm>.